

Dear Cllr Morton

Thank you for your emails regarding the railway fencing between Helensburgh Upper and Garelochhead.

Our Track Section Manager inspected the site this morning and I can confirm the following information from his report and photographs:

All fencing is risk assessed and factors taken into account include the line speed, number of trains per day and type of land it borders. At this location, the vast majority of fencing is in a satisfactory condition given the track category and adjacent land use which is forest. This fence would also be in acceptable condition if the adjacent land used was for livestock as there is Rylock fencing along this part of the route. Our Track Section Manager walked the entire fence line from the railway side and then from the Duchess Wood side to ensure nothing was missed.

He found only 1 defect where a panel of Rylock fencing appeared to have been trampled into the vegetation and as such, has left a 1.92m gap in the fencing. Our staff will rectify this next week when they are in the area.

I understand that you have concerns about the general condition of the fencing. In a number of areas, old timbers and sleepers have been used to strengthen fencing foundations on certain embankments giving the impression of incomplete and rotting fencing. However, this is not the case as post and wire (Rylock topped with a barb) is in place throughout.

Photos are attached to help understand the situation

Photo 1 – Damaged panel of Rylock at 3m 0015y (WHL). Staff will rectify next week.

Photo 2 – Typical condition of fencing throughout the area.

Photo 3 – From the public footpath within Duchess Wood fencing appears in bad condition (old timbers and sleepers have been used to strengthen fencing foundations embankments). Rylock in place throughout

Photo 4 – Behind the old timber supports, intact Rylock in place.

In summary, we will carry out repairs to the gap found in the fence next week but otherwise we are satisfied with the fence at this location.

I trust this information addresses your enquiry.

Regards

Evelyn Brown
Community Relations Manager, Scotland